



State of California Seismic Safety Commission Summer 2001 Newsletter

The Commission Moves Forward with Revising the Loss Reduction Plan, as well as the Tracking Document for Seismic Initiatives

The Commission finalized the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* (Plan) in May of 2001 which is required by the California Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act (*Government Code Chapter 12, Section 8870 et seq.*) It is currently being reviewed by the Administration. Upon its completion it will identify current and proposed efforts, goals, and priorities of the State through 2006. Along with this update, the Commission is in the process of tracking progress on the Plan's initiatives. A separate document is being developed that will identify those initiatives that have been completed, are under way, or are inactive. This document will be the progress report for the *California Loss Reduction Plan*.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Seismic Safety Commission are asking for help in updating the initiatives contained in the State's Plan. A survey was recently mailed in July signed by Dallas Jones, Director of OES and Richard McCarthy, Director of the SSC. Recipients were asked for updates on any successes and accomplishments, obstacles or impediments to seismic projects. The Commission hopes to compile the results of the survey in September. The survey asked recipients to report on any progress that has been made, impediments that have prevented efforts, resources that have been expended, and to report on commitments and plans put in place for the next five years to implement the initiatives. If you would like to participate in the survey, contact Karen Cogan at (916) 263-0583 for a copy.

Hospital Issues Examined at Commission Workshop— Policy Paper to be Issued in September

In July, the Commission held a special workshop on SB 1953 (the Hospital Facilities Seismic Safety Act). This Act requires that all acute care hospitals be evaluated and meet specified seismic safety standards. By January 2008, all acute care hospitals must be able to withstand a major earthquake without collapsing. By January 2030, all general acute-care hospital buildings must be "reasonably capable of providing services to the public after an earthquake."

The purpose of the workshop was to focus on identifying the underlying public policy issues, review inventory data of affected buildings, analyze the impacts of SB 1953, and collect any other important information to aid in developing Commission Findings that will be presented to the Governor, Legislature and the public.

The Commission heard testimony from representatives of the Hospital Building Safety Board, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, various healthcare Associations, Senator Speir and Alarcon, Assemblypersons Hertzberg, Chan, Dunn, Aroner, and Alquist. The draft Findings will be considered by the full Commission in September for approval. For more information about SB 1953, contact Henry Sepulveda, the Commission's Legislative Manager (916) 263-0579.



The Commission Bids Farewell to Five Commissioners

Seismic Gas Safety Valve Committee Formed

The Commission's October of 2000 meeting focused on policy issues surrounding earthquake activated gas shutoff valves. The Commission formed a special Seismic Gas Safety Task Committee to prepare gas safety information for consumers and local governments. By the end of 2001, the committee is expected to address a wide variety of risk management options including shake actuated and excess flow valves. The Committee is chaired by Commissioner Stan Moy and managed by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Initial financial support was provided by the Southern California Gas Company and Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Currently, the committee has produced a draft which is under review. For more information on the Committee's work, contact Fred Turner at 916-263-0582.

Commission Appoints New Chairman and Vice Chairman.

The Seismic Safety Commissioners voted Dr. Bruce R. Clark as Chairman of the Seismic Safety Commission, and Stan Moy as Vice Chairman. Chairman Clark was appointed by Governor Gray Davis to the Commission in May of 2000, representing the field of geology. Dr. Clark is a former faculty member in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Michigan, and is currently President and CEO of Leighton and Associates, a geotechnical consulting firm headquartered in Irvine, California. Mr. Moy was appointed by Governor Davis to the Commission in May of 2000 as well and represents architectural planning and chairs the Commission's Committee on Earthquake Safety for Natural Gas Systems. Mr. Moy is Principal of Finger & Moy Architects in Oakland and San Francisco, an architectural firm.

The Commission wishes five members well as their terms expires. Among them were Supervisor Scott Haggerty of Alameda representing local government, Jeff Johnson, representing seismology, Jerry Change representing soils engineer, and Patricia Snyder representing social services. Lastly, Mr. Donald Manning, represented fire protection and served as the Commission's chairman through July. These members were devoted and active members on various projects and committees, lived through various earthquakes and contributed immensely to improved seismic policy in California. They will be missed.

Proposition 122 Summary Report Released

Proposition 122 passed by the voters in June 1990 and authorized the state to issue \$300 million in general obligation bonds for the seismic retrofit of state and local public buildings. The Seismic Safety Commission was given the responsibility of administering the position of the program that capitalized on seismic retrofit experience developed in the public and private sectors. The mission was to develop products for the Seismic Retrofit Practices Improvement Program and make recommendations to further the effectiveness of the Proposition 122 program.

The Commission has released its summary report which evaluates the programs and products developed under this Program as well as provides recommendations for the future. The publication is entitled "*An Evaluation and Assessment of the California Seismic Safety Commission's Seismic Retrofit Practices Improvement Program—Proposition 122*". It will soon be available on the Commission's web site. To receive your copy, contact the office at (916) 263-5506.



Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center Update

The Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center (PEER) is a National Science Foundation earthquake engineering laboratory located in Richmond, California. Investigators from over twenty universities and several consulting companies conduct research in earthquake related geohazard assessment, engineering seismology, risk reduction, and performance based earthquake engineering.

On July 30, 2001, PEER announced that it successfully completed its review by the National Science Foundation and has been renewed for a second five-year funding cycle. Funds provided by the National Science Foundation for operating PEER are matched by the State. Additional funding is provided by the California Department of Transportation and the California Energy Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

PEER has two major components: the core program and the lifelines program. Basic research is conducted under the core program, and applied research for utilities and transportation systems is conducted under the lifelines program. One of the new areas of research is in the area of earthquake risk reduction decision making. Other areas of research include: Loss Modeling, Hazard Assessment and Geoperformance, Assess-

Methodologies, Simulation and Information Technologies, Structural and Nonstructural Performance.

The Commission helped support the legislation (SB 1864 Alquist) that provided matching state funds to establish PEER. The Commission periodically updates the legislature regarding PEER activities and progress in applied research earthquake loss reduction. PEER research is in alignment with both the State's *Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* and with the *Research and Implementation Plan for Earthquake Risk Reduction in California*. The Commission will also be working with PEER on the assessment of the seismic retrofit program for the Bay Area Rapid Transit (B.A.R.T.) system, later this year.

The Commission is under contract with the University of California, at Berkeley, the host of the PEER Center, to prepare a report for the legislature regarding PEER's 67 current projects. The first report was completed in 1999 and the second report will be completed in September 2001 with involvement of the Commission's PEER Review Committee. For more information about this program, contact Bob Anderson at (916) 263-5505.

Portola Earthquake Takes Everyone By Surprise

On August 10, 2001, Northern California experienced a 5.5 earthquake near Portola. The earthquake caused little to no damage, but the quake was felt in Yuba City, Sacramento, and as far away as the Bay Area. This earthquake caught many people off guard, since earthquakes are rarely noticed in this area. "Today's quake is a wake-up call that even for those of living and working in the Sacramento Valley, and throughout the Sierras that quakes can happen anytime," said OES Director Dallas Jones. "Fortunately, it appears there has been no damage or injuries, but we must always be ready for the inevitable next quake." For valuable earthquake preparedness information, check out quake safety tips at OES's web site: www.oes.ca.gov

Meeting Dates for Remainder of 2001

September 13 - Sacramento
October 11 - Location to be determined
November 8 - Sacramento
December 13 - no meeting



Check Out The Commission's New Look

The Commission unveiled its new web page look the first week in August. Along with the new requirements to have all state agency web sites to have consistency, the Commission's new web site features more maneuverability, more publications available for downloading, and more links to find other related seismic information. The Commission plans to publish the *Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* on the web, as soon as it is finalized. Check us out at www.seismic.ca.gov. It would not have been possible without San Diego State University, and the talents of Vincent Vibat, the Commission's new web page master.



Seismic Safety Legislative Update

Seven Commission-sponsored bills were introduced at the opening of the 2001-02 legislative session. The measures cover a wide-range of areas of interest to the Commission –from schools' earthquake preparedness to high storage racks safety to a new \$600 million State bond sale for the retrofitting of local government buildings and residential property.

As of August 20, four of the seven bills were proceeding toward enactment and referral to the Governor for signature.

- AB 977 (Alquist) ensures ongoing, full-year funding for the Commission's earthquake investigations;
- AB 184 (Liu) makes technical corrections to existing law relating to tax benefits for residential retrofitting projects;
- SB 717 (Speier) authorizes the issuance of \$600 million in State bonds to finance retrofitting of local government buildings as well as residential dwellings (multifamily and single family units);
- AB 1118 (Corbett) provides an allocation of monies to the Department of Insurance for their program which provides residential grants and loans for purposes of retrofitting.

In addition to the Commission-sponsored legislation, the Commission has taken positions on 30 other bills pending before the Legislature. Those bills involve hospital seismic safety, the Field Act (seismic safety on school construction), disaster planning and emergency preparedness.

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Karen Cogan

Newsletter Contributors: Richard McCarthy, Executive Director, Henry Sepulveda, Legislative Manager, Fred Turner, Senior Structural Engineer, Henry Reyes, Senior Engineer, Bob Anderson, Senior Geologist

Seismic Safety Commission
1755 Creekside Oaks Drive Suite 100
Sacramento CA 95833

